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SUBJECT: HMCS FREDERICTON TO JOIN NATO COALITION FLEETS

¶1. Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Fredericton will depart Halifax in late November for a six-month mission to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean as part of NATO's counter-piracy group. The NATO group is a multinational, integrated maritime force consisting of vessels from various NATO nations that train and operate together as a single team. Fredericton will also contribute to the NATO anti-terrorism maritime group, a multinational, coalition fleet conducting maritime security operations in and around the Persian Gulf, the northern Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, and part of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

¶2. In making the announcement of Fredericton's deployment on October 5, Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay said this contribution demonstrates the importance that Canada attaches to international maritime security and its willingness, along with Canada's international partners, to continue the fight against piracy, and thus increase the level of security in the Arabian Sea region.

¶3. Commissioned in 1994, HMCS Fredericton is a 4,750-metric ton multi-role frigate, one of seven based in Halifax. It has a crew of 240 and includes a Sea King helicopter and air detachment. The ship has been working up since spring in preparation for this deployment. See <http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/fredericton> for additional information about the ship.

¶4. BIO NOTE: Fredericton's Commanding Officer, Commander Steven Wadell is on his third deployment to the region. He previously served aboard HMCS Algonquin and as Executive Officer of HMCS Winnipeg during deployments to SW Asia and the Persian Gulf. He commanded HMCS Charlottetown from June 2008 until being named to the command of Fredericton in early 2009.

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